

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the enclosed Replacement Sheet for original Figure 1.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Specification

It is submitted that the specification properly identifies the Velcro trademark. It is capitalized and is accompanied by the generic terminology "hook and loop fastener strip". The Velcro trademark has been cancelled in the claims to obviate any potential rejection of the claims based on this ground.

The text of the specification has been amended on page 7 to refer the reader to the appropriate drawings referred to in the last two paragraphs. Thus, this objection should not be moot.

Drawings

A replacement drawing has been provided which has the label "Prior Art" applied to Figure 1. Thus, this objection is now moot.

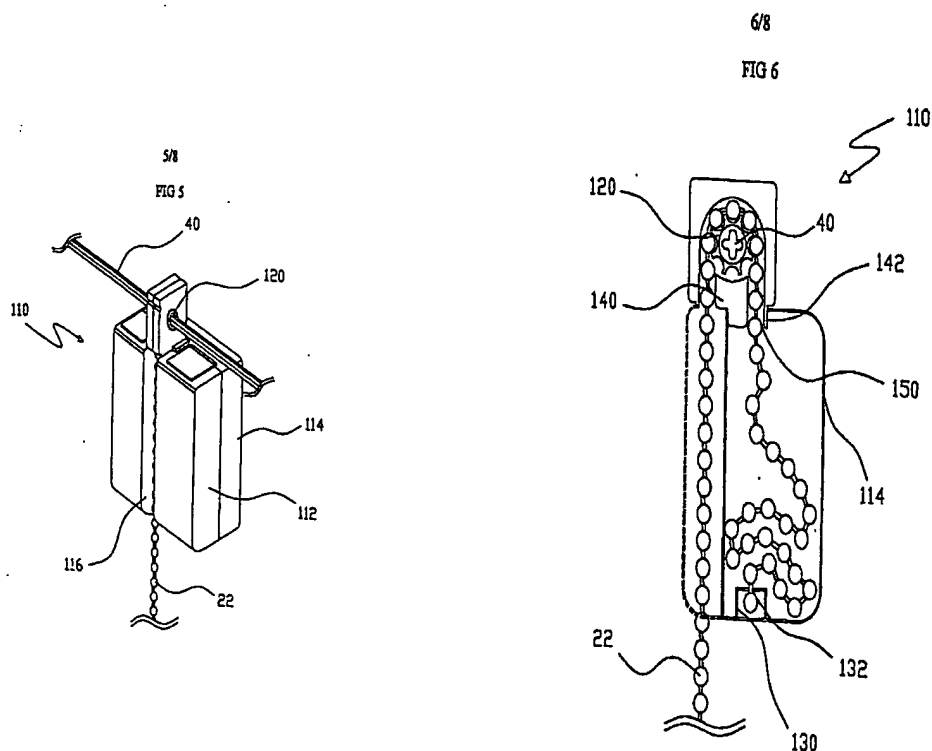
Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 6 has been amended to recite that the rotation gear located in the operation box section (as compared to the ball chain box section) is different and has now been amended to provide the label "second" to it. Thus, this rejection is now moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The claims have been rejected over the Applicant's previous Korean Patent 20-0267467 ("Korean '467") under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and in further combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,843,302 to Nijs. These rejections are respectfully traversed. However, in order to expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been amended.

Figures 5 and 6 of Applicant's specification are set forth below which illustrate the ball chain box section of Applicant's preferred embodiment:



As can be seen, only one end of the ball chain 22 extends from the ball chain box 110. The other end is compiled or collected in the receptacle defined by the enclosed ball chain box. In addition, the front surface of the ball chain box includes a groove 116 for receiving and guiding the ball chain 22. These features cooperate with one another to prevent the ball chain from becoming entangled. These structures are not disclosed or suggested in Korean '467. The patent to Nijs does not disclose or suggest these two

features. In fact, the enclosed channels 56 in Nijs teach away from the use of a groove in the front end of a ball chain box section as herein claimed. It is also interesting to note that the Nijs reference discloses that both ends of the chain extend from the operating mechanism. Thus, the chain is subject to being entangled.

Therefore, it is submitted that Claim 1 and its dependent claims are defined patentable subject matter over the references and should be allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that Claims 9 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New Claim 12 is a combination of allowable Claim 9, Claim 6 and Claim 1. Thus, it clearly is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

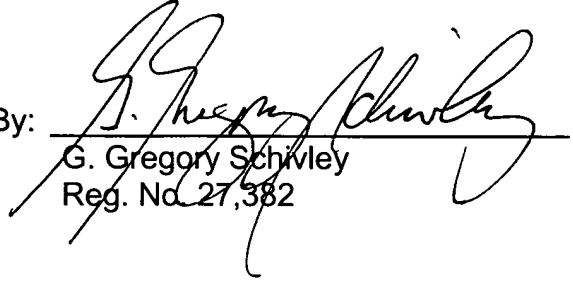
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to all the outstanding objections and rejections. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 18, 2008

By: _____


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